

the missionary

MAY 2022



The pandemic changed it all

When this once-self-sufficient family fell on hard times, your generosity brought them hope

In March 2020, Jeremy and Jennifer were young, recently married and committed to their careers, their community and the family they were building. Both had supervisory positions in facility services in downtown museums.

Jeremy was in school part time, studying for his bachelor's degree. And the family was active in their church. Jeremy served on his church outreach team, Jennifer served in the hospitality ministry and sang in the choir and their children were active in youth ministry.

Continued inside ▶

Page 2

Christian camp promises a life-changing experience

Page 3

Creating a safety net

Page 4

Blossom in every season of life

Thank you for restoring li

The pandemic changed it all (Continued from pg. 1)

All of that was about to change.

In response to COVID-19, the museums closed their doors to the public and stayed closed for almost two years. When they did re-open, not all employees were called back. Others were offered only part-time work.

Everything changed

Jeremy and Jennifer had always managed to make ends meet. They were proud that they lived within their means and did not rely on public or private assistance to provide for their family. But the pandemic turned their world upside down.

Suddenly, their meager savings ran out, and they didn't have enough food. Even COVID masks and hard-to-get sanitation products were beyond their budget. Eventually, their church referred them to Central Union Mission for help.

Blindsided

Twice a month, for almost two years, Jeremy and Jennifer came to the Mission, where they were greeted with understanding, care and the love of Jesus.

Like thousands of others blindsided by the pandemic, they received bags of groceries, household supplies and other help, such as school supplies for their

children. They even received a turkey and fixings at Thanksgiving and gifts for their children at Christmas.

Eventually, when restrictions began to lift, they both returned to work part time. With the continued support of the Mission, their family is stable, grateful and hopeful for better days to come.

Your giving made a difference for many

Jeremy and Jennifer's story is not unique among the working poor who came to our Family Ministry Center for help during those bad days. Like so many others, they were at the lower end of the pay scale — the first to be laid off and the last to see recovery.

But over the last two years, the Mission has been a lifesaver, serving an average of 4,000 people every month when they were at their lowest. We also provided COVID testing, medical services, Bibles, prayer and more. We even delivered groceries to those who were unable to make it to our doors.

Jeremy and Jennifer are so thankful for the help you provided. Through your partnership, they've weathered the crisis and come through stronger for it. Please continue to stand with the Mission so that even more families can find help and hope!



Your gift will be **DOUBLED** to reach **TWICE** as many people!

ives and offering hope!



Christian camp promises a life-changing experience for underprivileged kids



Ministry Camp is a partnership of Central Union Mission and Camp Bennett Ministry Center in Brookeville, Maryland. It provides a once-in-a-lifetime summer camp experience for underprivileged youth ages 8 to 13 from all over the DC area.

Ministry Camp emphasizes a beautiful, rustic setting . . . fun, character-building activities . . . and a clear focus on God, His Word and His wonderful plan for the children. Young people like Riley really benefit.

After an evening campfire devotional, Riley came to the camp director with questions about the grace and forgiveness of Jesus. After a deep conversation, Riley asked if he could be baptized.

We recently found out that Riley wants to come back this summer and serve as a counselor in training. That's the kind of difference Ministry Camp can make in children's lives!



EVERY \$1 YOU GIVE NOW WILL BECOME \$2!

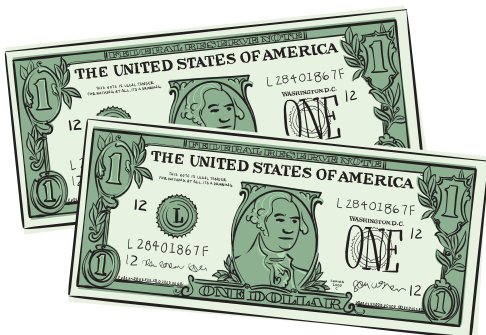
Give today, and your
impact will immediately be
DOUBLED by a
Challenge Grant.

You'll reach **TWICE**
as many people!

Turn \$1



into \$2!



The more generous
you can be, the more
good work you'll do.

Creating a safety net for those in greatest need



JOE METTIMANO
President, CEO

As I write you today, we're seeing about 4,000 people a month at our Family Ministry Center. I'm glad we can be the hands and feet of Jesus to those we serve.

Many who come are taking advantage of programs such as computer literacy classes and job placement support. Both are having a significant impact.

But as more people seek help, we want to be fully equipped to provide the support and, most of all, the hope they need to regain their self-sufficiency.

That's why I'm excited about beginning work on our expanded Comprehensive Family Resource Center.

The story behind this opportunity is truly amazing. It confirms so completely God's blessing on our vision for a re-imagined ministry — one that will meet a critical need among the poorest women, men, families and senior citizens in the DC metro area.

Our goal is to create an easily accessible, "one-stop" continuum of services in a single location that offers truly transformative family care in a safe environment.

To make this expansion of life-restoring programs possible, we hope to raise \$5 million, which will be combined with an additional \$5 million in corporate lead gifts for a total of \$10 million.

I realize that's ambitious. But, thankfully, many of our supporters are already coming together to invest in the Mission's next chapter of ministry. That's so encouraging.

Let us know if YOU want to be involved! Thanks, and God bless you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe'.

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT NOW!

Challenge Grant: Give ONCE, help TWICE

Here's a rare opportunity to make an even greater impact right here in Washington, D.C., for people in need of hope and a second chance at life.

A limited-time, \$50,000 Challenge Grant will automatically DOUBLE your impact!

Won't you send a gift today? You'll do **TWO TIMES** as much good to bless people in our community and help them overcome poverty, hunger, homelessness and even addiction.

Please share your compassion now by giving to provide help and hope in the name of Jesus Christ.

Every \$2.09 you give now will reach not ONE but TWO people in need with a meal and other services. Thank you!



Blossom in EVERY season of life

No matter your season of life, you always have at least one of the following three blessings to offer:

- 1. Time** — As we age, we often have more capacity to volunteer or serve. Do you have time you can give to an organization you care about?
- 2. Talent** — Whether you're in the process of building a career or preparing to retire, your talents and skills are designed by God to benefit others. Can you bring advancement or attention to a cause you're passionate about?
- 3. Treasure** — As they age, many adults find that they carry a deep treasure — a legacy of values they want to pass along to loved ones or financial gifts for organizations like Central Union Mission. Each day, more people decide to turn their estate plan into a legacy of love.

Could you be in a unique season of giving?

For the full version of this article, request a FREE copy of "3 Ways to Blossom in Every Season of Life" by contacting Rev. Deborah Chambers at 202-745-7118, ext. 227, or dchambers@missiondc.org. OR bless your family today with a God-honoring will at christianwill.org/missiondc.

3 EASY STEPS TO DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT NOW!



1. Complete the response form, telling us how much you want to give.



2. The Challenge Grant will immediately DOUBLE your impact.



3. Return your reply form and gift.